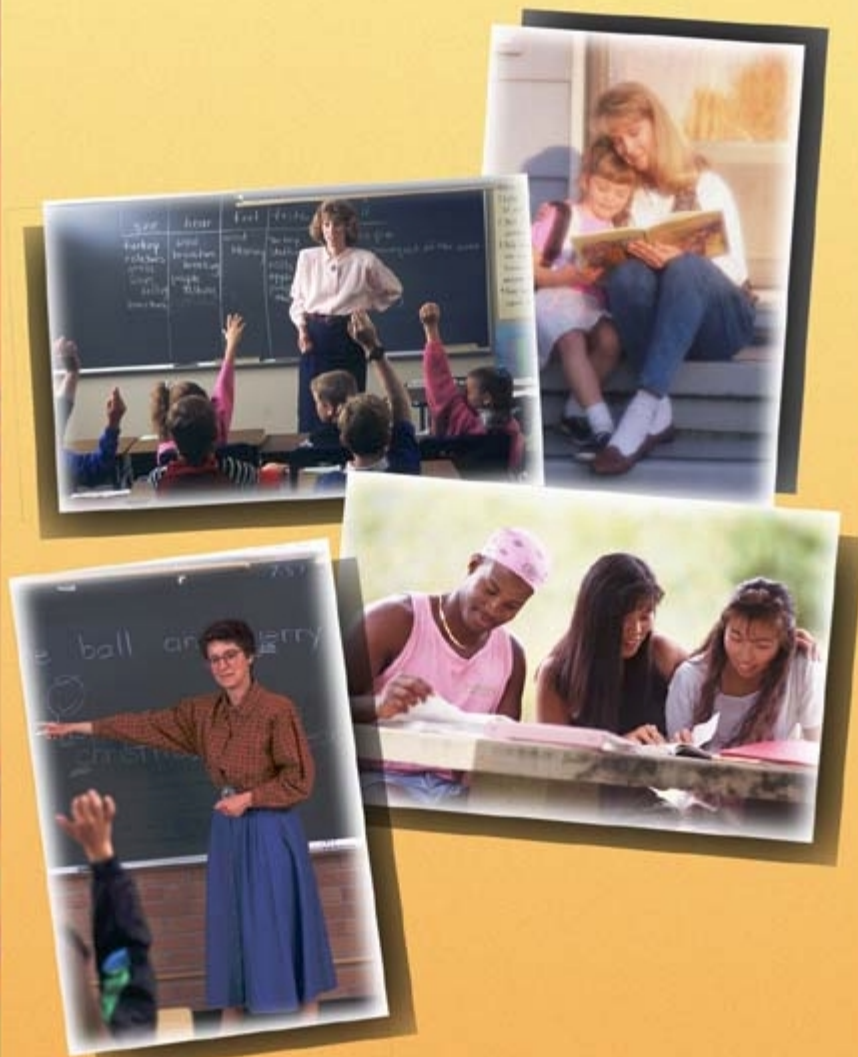


# USAFE Strategic Plan on Dependent Education



*"Educating our Children - A Challenge for Each of Us!"*

# ***“Educating our Children – A Challenge for Each of Us!”***

**By  
General Gregory S. Martin  
Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe**

**USAFE implemented the Strategic Plan on Dependent Education in 1999 establishing a combined parental, commander, and installation response to improve education. USAFE set goals in seven areas to more effectively focus our resources and partner with educators. Through stronger parental and commander involvement and increased communication and accountability, we have made significant strides toward influencing dependent education.**



**Much remains to be done to prepare our children to excel as members of society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) have helped prepare military children since 1945, but the future presents very formidable challenges for American education. A global economy, technology, a heightened pace of change, and intense demands upon families require military leaders, parents, and DoDDs – *the entire military community* – to search for new ways to provide world-class education for our children.**

**We must also work together to instill in our sons and daughters the values that will equip them to choose wisely. No school system, family, parent, or commander can do this alone. The Strategic Plan shows each of us how to “roll up our sleeves” with DoDDS and tackle the challenge of educating our children.**

**I ask you to join me in making the USAFE education vision a reality. The responsibility is ours; the time is now; and our children deserve a bright future!**

# ***Our Vision***

**A world class educational system that inspires and prepares all students for success while capitalizing on the uniqueness of a European assignment.**

## ***Goals***

- Encourage Vigorous Parental Participation in Dependent Education
- Energize Established Forums for Parent and School Official Interaction
- Institutionalize Strong Commander Involvement in Dependent Education as a Quality of Life Issue
- Support DoDDS Goal of Accountability for School Improvement and Student Achievement
- Influence Planning for Dependent Education in Europe
- Reinforce a Healthy Military-DoDDS Relationship
- Enlist the Support of Others to Improve Dependent Education

# Goal 1

## Encourage Vigorous Parental Participation in Dependents Education



**USAFE will conduct an extensive media campaign aimed at encouraging parental involvement in all facets of their children's education.**

**We will inform parents at every base of times and locations of school and installation advisory committee meetings, as well as the proceedings of each meeting and actions taken to resolve concerns.**

**Commanders will initiate an additional forum for parental concerns — town meetings specifically focused on local educational issues. We will ensure that parents are aware of the DoDDS standards for education, as outlined in the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Strategic Plan, so that dialogue between parents and administrators can be more effective.**

# Goal 2

## Energize Established Forums for Parent and School Official Interaction

**We will maximize the participation of parents and military commanders in school advisory and installation advisory committees.**

**Commanders and base school officers will take an active role in these these committees.**





**We will work with Department of Defense leaders to improve the effectiveness of these committees in resolving parental concerns. We will also promote each school having an active, responsive parent-teacher organization.**

## **Goal 3**

### **Institutionalize Strong Commander Involvement in Dependent Education as a Quality of Life Issue**

**“Taking care of the troops” is a basic tenet of command.**

**Installation commanders will address a major quality of life issue of their people by ensuring a sound education program on their installations.**

**They will hold town meetings on education.**



**Parents will have the opportunity to voice concerns to both military and school leadership at these meetings and commanders will track solutions to identified problems.**

**Issues that cannot be resolved at the local level will be elevated through the USAFE and DoDDS chain of command for action. Installation commanders will report to the Commander of USAFE on all aspects of local dependent education to include facilities, budget, staffing, class size, parental concerns, responsiveness of school officials, and effectiveness of school principals.**

**The Commander of USAFE will use these inputs in meetings with DoDDS and military officials to advocate for the quality education our children deserve.**

## Goal 4

### **Support DoDEA Goal of Accountability for School Improvement and Student Achievement**

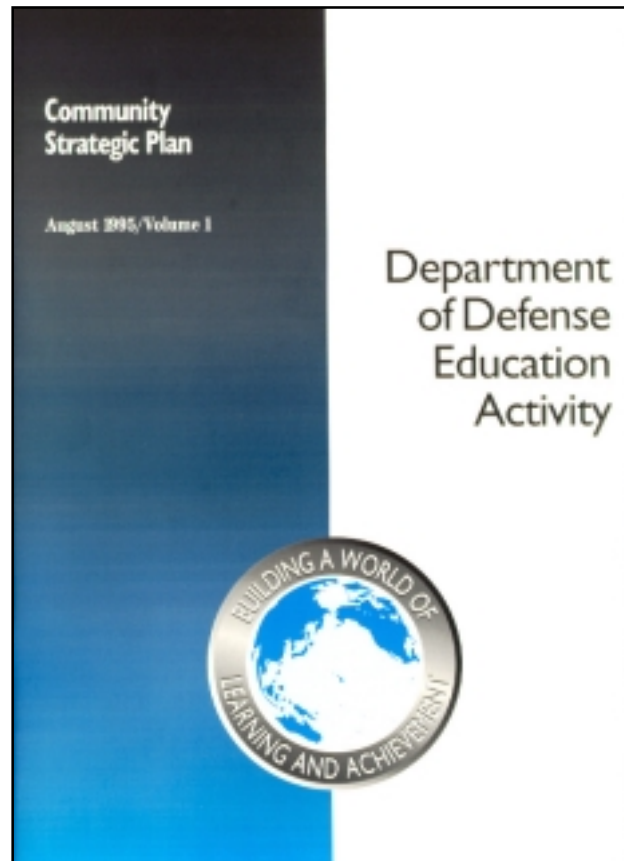
**The Department of Defense Education Activity published their Community Strategic Plan in August 1995.**

**This plan established goals, benchmarks, strategies, and performance indicators that require educational excellence for the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) and DoDDS.**

**The plan also establishes goals for accountability for school improvements and student achievement.**

**DoDEA will revise their strategic plan and publish new goals to continue their improvement. We will ensure that this information is available to all concerned parents.**

**Providing this information will increase understanding that parents and school administrators share common objectives and will strengthen efforts to mark progress toward those objectives. We will encourage DoDDS officials to assess their curriculum to ensure it meets the requirements of stateside schools and universities.**



# Goal 5

## Influence Planning for Dependents Education in Europe



**We will work closely with European Command, US Army in Europe, and US Navy in Europe to formulate joint guidance to DoDDS.**



**This joint effort will ensure the US Commander in Chief of Europe has the information needed to address our mutual concerns during Congressional testimony and interaction with Congressional, Department of Defense, and DoDDS officials.**



**Our united effort will strengthen the message of what we want for our children and facilitate improved dependent education in the theater.**



# Goal 6

## Reinforce a Healthy Military-DoDDS Relationship

**We will meet with senior DoDDS officials to ensure a healthy relationship between DoDDS and USAFE.**

**We will communicate requirements to DoDDS administrators and teachers so our expectations are clear.**

**In turn, we will ask DoDDS administrators and teachers how we can assist them and provide appropriate support. Our schools liaison officers will keep the installation commanders informed on parental and educator concerns at their location. They will work closely with DoDDS officials to ensure progress toward our goals.**





# Goal 7

## **Enlist the Support of Others to Improve Dependent Education**

**USAFE will continue efforts with the European Schools Council and Dependent Education Council to formulate solutions to parental concerns.**



**We will enlist the help of officials from the Office of the Secretary of Defense who provide oversight for dependent education, and solicit the support of organizations that act on behalf of military members and families.**

**We will seek the assistance of legislators with interest in education to surface our concerns.**

# *Summary*

**The USAFE Strategic Plan on Dependent Education is an ambitious plan that establishes seven goals to ensure a world-class education system that inspires and prepares all students for success while capitalizing on the uniqueness of a European assignment.**

**The plan addresses parental frustration and perception that they have little say in their children's education. It requires monitoring of the existing avenues for parental involvement and working with DoDDS to ensure an effective response to voiced concerns.**

**The plan requires commanders at all levels to become involved in dependent education at their installations. Written assessments, town-hall meetings, and participation on the Command Advisory Committee will ensure commander attention.**

**An extensive media campaign designed to get and keep parents involved in their children's education will be conducted continuously throughout the school year. This effort will make parents aware of established DoDDS standards and support the DoDDS goal of accountability to those standards.**

**This is not a "battle plan" but a plan designed to make USAFE's dependent education expectations known. Throughout this effort, we will enlist the aid of those individuals and organizations that can assist us in providing the world-class education our children deserve.**

# *Contacts*

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FAX: 480-7375**

## **USAFE DoD Dependent Schools**

<b>Alconbury ES 268-3620</b>	<b>Feltwell ES 226-7003/7004</b>	<b>Lakenheath ES 226-3721</b>	<b>Ramstein HS 480-6951/6952</b>
<b>Alconbury HS 268-3769</b>	<b>Geilenkirchen ES 0049-2451-67725</b>	<b>Kleine Brogel ES 00-32-11-792527</b>	<b>Ramstein JHS 480-7104/7105</b>
<b>Ankara ES/HS 672-2148/4114</b>	<b>Halvorsen-Tunner ES/MS 330-6272/6350</b>	<b>Lakenheath MS 226-7006/7007</b>	<b>Sembach E/MS 496/7040/7003</b>
<b>Aviano ES 632-5706/5283</b>	<b>Incirlik ES 676-6449/3109</b>	<b>Lakenheath HS 226-3115/3116</b>	<b>Sevilla ES/MS 722-8464/8355</b>
<b>Aviano HS 632-7652/7256</b>	<b>Incirlik HS 676-6484/6330</b>	<b>Landstuhl E/MS 486-6503/6507</b>	<b>Spangdahlem ES 452-6170/6881</b>
<b>Bitburg ES 453-7215/7131</b>	<b>Izmir ES/HS 675-3209/3390</b>	<b>Liberty IS 226-2258</b>	<b>Spangdahlem MS 452-7213/7205</b>
<b>Bitburg MS 453-7731/7110</b>	<b>Kaiserslautern ES 489-7048</b>	<b>Pordenone ES 632-4271</b>	<b>Vajont ES 632-4134</b>
<b>Bitburg HS 453-7937/7202</b>	<b>Kaiserslautern MS 489-7430/7453</b>	<b>Ramstein ES 480-3996</b>	<b>Vogelweh ES 489-6810/7776</b>
<b>Croughton E/MS 236-8272/8493</b>	<b>Kaiserslautern HS 489-7541/7300</b>	<b>Ramstein IS 480-6023/6135/6350</b>	<b>Volkel ES 00-31-4132-74285</b>